GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1372
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2017
Review of Benefits to Forest People
Giluwa Shri Laxman

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has not conducted any review to find out that several backward castes living in the forest are not getting the benefits from the tribal development schemes of the Union Government and reservation moto in the Government jobs;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard till date and the outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI JASWANTSINH BHABHOR)

(a) to (b): The status of all population, including Scheduled Tribes (STs), is reviewed regardingsocio-economic conditions, assets and amenities, education, health, poverty, employment,etc., across the countrythrough decennial Census conducted by the Office of the Registrar General, India; large scale sample surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics &Programme Implementation; various surveys conducted by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Labour&Employment, etc. In addition to above, officials of Ministry of Tribal Affairs often visit States / different locations and review progress of tribal development schemes.
(c): Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy for overall development of STs across the country, which includes support for education, health, sanitation, water supply, skill development, livelihood, infrastructure, etc. Major part of infrastructure development and provision of basic amenities in tribal areas / regions in the country is carried out through various schemes / programmes of concerned Central Ministries and the State Governments concerned, while the Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides additive to these initiatives by way of plugging critical gaps. A list of schemes / programmes administered by Ministry of Tribal Affairs is at Annexure I.
Further, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs administers 'the Schedule Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (in short FRA)'. The FRA has been enacted to recognize and record rights of forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations and whose rights could not be recorded and, secondly to empower them and their community institutions as statutory authorities with the power to protect and manage forests. Responsibility for implementation of FRA lies with State Governments/UTs. As per information received from the State Governments, upto 30.04.2017, 41,70,191 claims (40,31,766 individual and 1,38,425 community claims) have been filed and 17,92,816 titles (17,29,923 individual and 62,893 community claims) have been distributed to the extent of 1,37,47,389.80 acres of forest land. A total of 36,40,498 (87.30%) claims have been disposed of. Also, under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), FRA beneficiaries are entitled to a maximum of 150 days of work per household in a Financial Year.
The Census of India figures for the years 2001 and 2011 show that the literacy rate of Scheduled Tribes (STs) has increased to 59% in 2011 from 47.1% in 2001 at all India level. Various other indicators relating to health, education, livelihood, living conditions, etc., in respect of STs, as reflected in Census 2011 and other socio-economic survey reports have shown improvement in the status of STs. However, there are still considerable gaps in the human development indicators pertaining to STs as compared to general population.
As intimated by the Department of Personal and Training (DoPT), information on representation of STs in Central Government Departments / Ministries is collected by DoPT online. The representation of STs, which was 2.25% as on 01.01.1965, has increased to 8.37% as on 01.01.2015.

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Annexure I referred to in reply to part (c) of LokSabha Unstarred Question No.1372 for 24.7.2017 regarding "Review of Benefits to Forest People".
Schemes being implemented by Ministry of Tribal Affairs for STs

S. No. Name of the Scheme / Programme
1 Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Tribal Sub Scheme (TSS)(hitherto known as SCA to Tribal Sub Plan (TSP)).
2 Grants under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution of India.
3 Pre-Matric Scholarship for ST students.
4 PostMatric Scholarship for ST students.
5 Girls & Boys Hostels for STs.
6 Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub-Plan Area.
7 Vocational Training in Tribal Areas.
8 National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education for ST students.
9 National Overseas Scholarship for ST Students.

10 Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP.
11 Grants-in-Aid to State Tribal Development Corporative Corporations (STDCCs), etc. for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) Operations.
12 Grants-in-Aid to Voluntary Organisations working for the welfare of STs.
13 Strengthening Education among Scheduled Tribe Girls in Low Literacy Districts.
14 Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
15 Institutional support for Development and Marketing of Tribal Products / Produce.
16 Equity Support to National /State Scheduled Tribe Finance and Development Corporations.
17 Research Information & Mass Education, Tribal Festival and Others.
18 Grant-in-Aid to Tribal Research Institutes.

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